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Congress of the United States
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May 19, 2021

The Honorable John Kerry
Special Presidential Envoy for Climate
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520-2204

Dear Secretary Kerry:

Thank you for joining the House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on May 12th titled, "Driving a Global, Whole-of-Society Response to Climate Action." Tackling climate change takes more than just one person, one corporation, or one country. We need a comprehensive, international response to this crisis to ensure the best future for our children and our children's children.

As you know, the State Department handles all Presidential permits for cross-border pipelines. In my home state of Minnesota, Enbridge is currently replacing over 337 miles of pipe in its Line 3 crude oil pipeline that runs from Alberta to Wisconsin. Line 3 was originally constructed in the 1960s with service starting in 1968 before the National Environmental Policy Act was enacted in the 1970s. When Enbridge sought to replace Line 3 in 2014, the State Department determined that the replacement project did not need a new Presidential permit. Understandably, there are some valid concerns regarding the lack of environmental review of the pipeline.

Given our discussion at the hearing and understanding this is a nuanced situation, I respectfully request that you answer the following questions:

1. How is the Biden administration planning to approach decisions on cross-border pipelines, including whether replacement or upgraded pipeline infrastructure should require a new Presidential permit?
2. How will the administration ensure that consideration of climate risk and meaningful tribal consultation are included in future pipeline permitting?
3. How does the administration plan to end our reliance on these fossil fuels and transition to a clean energy economy?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Dean Phillips in black ink.

Dean Phillips
Member of Congress